



**SEIUHealthcare®**  
United for Quality Care

March 9th, 2023  
Jay Moir, Lead Direct Support Staff  
Network  
District 1199 New England  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Jay Moir, I live in Manchester, and I am a Lead Direct Support Staff at Network (LDSS). I've come before you today to ask that you allocate funding for group home services so group home workers like me can have benefits such as better wages, pension funds and affordable health insurance.

I have worked at Network for 6 and a half years. As an LDSS I administer medication, helped schedule and transport individuals to medical appointments, social events, community projects, meal preparation, budgeting spending funds, assistance with daily living chores and responsibilities, personal hygiene, while also ensuring physical safety at home and in the community. I get a tremendous sense of satisfaction using my humor to promote positive behavior, cooperation, and aiding in a sense of accomplishment in everyday chores, creative endeavors, physical activity and all other little adventures.

While I do love my job, it is very challenging, exhausting, and dangerous work. As staff we endure spontaneous bouts of violence from our individuals and do not blame our individuals because know that it is a symptom of their condition. We do blame management for not taking the necessary steps to ensure shifts are properly staffed and that those that are working, are safe. I am mandated to be on call every weekend from 5pm on Friday until 8am on Monday only leaving me 20 hours a week to care for myself.

Inflation and the staffing crisis affects the ones that do show up tremendously. We are over worked, severely underpaid and are stuck between doing what we know many others wouldn't, and being able to care for ourselves. It is hard to attract people to this work given the money we make and even harder to keep people in our field once they've experienced what we endure with no benefits to show for it. Why would you risk getting beat up at work if you could make a similar amount in a safer job? Why would you knowingly walk into a job that mandates you day in and day out when you're not being offered affordable health insurance or retirement benefits? My coworkers and I do it because we care about the individuals we work with, but should we constantly be taken advantage of because of our giving nature?

I ask that you please allocate funding for the services we provide, so that group home workers like me can rest at night without worry. We shouldn't have to choose which bill not to pay just to ensure the roof is kept over our heads or have to tighten the budget that

month because rent is higher. We deserve liveable wages, access to affordable healthcare and retirement security.

Thank you.